



FIRST LADY LAUNCHES SUMMER LIBRARY READING PROGRAM

Carla Markell encourages children at Dover Public Library to “Dig into Reading”

(DOVER, DEL) May 29, 2013 —Delaware Libraries opened the annual Summer Library Reading Program on Wednesday with First Lady Carla Markell making a special appearance to read to children at the Dover Public Library’s weekly story time.

“Dig into reading,” she told the children, emphasizing the theme of this year’s program, while offering advice for parents as well.

“One of the greatest gifts a parent can provide a child is the love of reading,” she says. “When I was young, I walked to the Newark Library so often it almost seemed like a second home to me. The governor and I frequently took our children, Molly and Michael, to the library for story hours, and both have become avid readers and great students.”

Library visits, she says, are an excellent example of quality time for a family and a great way to encourage children to develop new interests.

Joining Mrs. Markell at the Dover Library was the nationally acclaimed Illstyle & Peace Productions, a multicultural, Philadelphia-based family-friendly hip hop dance company, which delivered an eclectic mix of dance and performance disciplines in its uplifting “Become Your Dreams” program.

The Illstyle & Peace performance is one of three special events scheduled by the Summer Library Reading Program for presentation at 32 public libraries throughout the state. The programs begin June 17 and continue through Aug. 2

The other programs feature music by Simple Gifts and the “Rainforest Rendezvous,” an interactive presentation by the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation.

Simple Gifts, a musical duo that features a diverse selection of folk music and songs from cultures around the world, enhances its performances by using a variety of familiar and not-so-familiar instruments and teaching children and adults in the audience how to play them.

The “Rainforest Rendezvous” program explores how plants and animals adapt to their wet and wonderful environment. Children can play an animal adaptation game and make their own tree frog and jaguar mask in a craft session that complements the lesson. The program covers many topics that are part of the state’s science standards for kindergarten through fifth grade.

“When children read throughout the summer, they keep themselves mentally engaged so they’re ready to head back to school when vacation ends,” said Dr. Annie Norman, state librarian. “Summer

reading can be exciting for kids too, because for two months they get to dig into anything that really interests them. Some kids like adventures, others like mysteries or biographies, or stories about children from different parts of the world. Whatever it is, they're developing a love of reading and developing good learning habits for the future."

This year's theme, "Dig into Reading" encourages children to visit their local libraries to explore more deeply the topics that interest them most and to use books and other library resources to broaden their horizons. Children who sign up are given reading logs to chart their progress over the course of the summer, by time spent reading or the number of books. Program goals and other specifics are determined by each participating library. Children who reach the goal are awarded a prize and a signed certificate by Governor Jack Markell.

For more information about the Summer Library Reading Program and a schedule of events, contact your local library. For information on public libraries in your area, visit the Delaware Library Catalog portal at www.lib.de.us/

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About Delaware Libraries—

All 32 county, municipal, and independent public libraries throughout Delaware collaborate to offer free 24/7 access to the online catalog (delawarelibraries.org) and Ask a Librarian Delaware; free access to Wi-Fi and computers/internet with the fastest broadband speed in the nation; free access to ebooks, jobs databases, homework resources, audio content, and DVDs; free informal training for patrons, community partnerships, and much more to support Delawareans in their lifelong learning interests.

About Program Funding—

Simple Gifts and Illstyle & Peace Productions are part of the statewide Summer Library Reading Program Performing Arts Series. Support for these programs is made possible by a collaboration between the Delaware Division of the Arts and the Delaware Division of Libraries.

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